

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A device for at least one of automating and controlling a machine tools or production machines, comprising:
at least one computer located remote from at least one of the machine tools or production machines and including control functions for controlling the machine tools or production machines; and
at least one bus system connecting the at least one computer with each machine tools or production machine and adapted to transmit data and control signals unidirectionally or bidirectionally, wherein said remote computer is configured as a manual control device.
2. The device of claim 1, wherein the bus system is configured as a redundant and secure bus system.
3. The device of claim 1, wherein the bus system is implemented at an Ethernet bus system.
4. The device of claim 1, wherein the bus system comprises a secure wireless connection.

5. The device of claim 1, wherein the computer is selected from the group consisting of personal computer and workstation.
6. The device of claim 1, wherein the at least one computer processes the control functions of several machine tools or processing machines in parallel.
7. The device of claim 1, and further comprising a plurality of said at least one computer, with the control functions being processed on at least two of the plurality of computers.
8. The device of claim 1, wherein the machine is provided with an UltraThinClient that lacks built-in intelligence.
9. The device of claim 1, and further comprising a central electric supply unit that supplies energy to the machines.